



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Epiphany

Sunday, January 5, 2025

How to Connect

- Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Dalton. We are glad you are here!
- Currently our church observes a “Masks Optional” policy throughout the church campus with the exception of the nursery staff and volunteers. Adult teachers, volunteers, and nursery staff, if they are unvaccinated, are asked to remain masked when involved in children’s Christian Education activities. Some may still opt to wear a mask even if they are vaccinated. Additionally, we have returned to observing The Peace, passing the offering plate, and joining hands to sing The Congregational Response (“God Be with You ‘Til We Meet Again”) in our traditional manner. Anyone uncomfortable with this approach is encouraged to refrain from participation in any or all of these aspects with full knowledge that our congregation is respectful and recognizes that our members have different needs and comfort levels. Please check any of the following for updates and possible changes in our COVID protocol:

First Presbyterian Church, Dalton Communication Channels:

- “First Presbyterian Church Dalton” - Our church’s public Facebook page.
 - “FPC Dalton Connect” - Our private Facebook page for church members and staff
 - “Midweek News” - Our newsletter sent online to most members unless a paper copy is requested by calling 706-278-8161.
 - Your E-Mail
 - Your personal mailbox
- Find the most current contact information on our members in the church directory. It can be found on our website (www.firstpresdalton.org) under the fellowship tab. Please email the church office for the directory password.
 - Regular team meetings will be held at the discretion of team chairs in-person and/or through video-conference. Scheduling will take place through direct communication and will be posted to the newsletter.

WI-FI



Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the church. There are two options available: First Pres Guest 2.4 and First Pres Guest 5. Although these will connect to the same network, 2.4 has more strength while 5 has more range. The location of the device will influence which one will automatically connect. The password for the guest network is **johncalvin**

Announcements

- The flowers today are in honor of Sarah McCown’s parents, **Ted and Jane McCown**, for what would have been their 70th wedding anniversary.
- All are invited to stay after Worship today to help **take down the greens**. Thank you in advance for your help!
- Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, January 12 in Hollis Hall, immediately following Worship. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the church office. After lunch, stay for the Connection Team meeting and see how you can help.
- After lunch on January 12 we will pack 300 **“Blessing Bags.”** The intent is to provide each member with several bags to keep in their cars to distribute as needed to our community members in need. Please see the Midweek News for more information and how you can contribute.
- It’s time for to sign up for new **Dinner Groups!** Dinner Groups are a chance to visit once a month with a selected group of other church members for a time of fellowship and food. See the Midweek News for more information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

THE GREETING

At the sound of the bells, please prepare your heart and mind for worship.

INTROIT

Let Us Gather and Praise the Lord!

B. Edwards

Let us gather and praise the Lord.

O sing praises to the Lord.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Come, worship the Lord of glory.

Proclaim God's praise among the nations!

Hilliard Jolly

The Call to Worship is from Isaiah 60:1-3.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God, you placed a star in the sky to draw wise folk to the place of Christ's nativity. There you revealed the mystery of your eternal purpose for all humanity: God made flesh, born of Mary, opening to all the world the promise you made to Abraham and Sarah. Empower your church to be as the light of the star, that we may draw the world to the glory of Christ, our Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

Puer Nobis Nascitur

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn 152 Note:

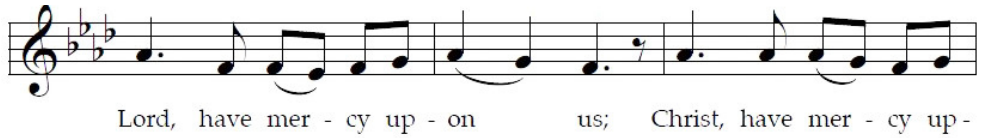
This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

*Where you see this notation, please rise in body or in spirit.

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Kyrie Eleison



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Joy to the World

Antioch

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me!

William B. Bradbury

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

NRSVUE

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;

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they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Johann R. Ahle
(1625-1673)

*Blessed Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you.
By your gospel true and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.*

*All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till your Spirit breaks our night, filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.*

*Glorious Lord, yourself impart, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Touch our lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your church now raises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

NRSVUE

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east,

Hymn 150 Note:
Witnessing the beginning or the end of life evokes very personal responses (emphasized by the “for me” at the end of each stanza), especially when the scale is intimate, as in this imagined visit to Christ’s manger. The prophecies recalled in stanza three come from Isaiah 9:6.

The Nicene Creed:
“The Nicene Creed was the first and in fact is the only creed used ecumenically by the vast majority of Christians throughout the world. For more than fifteen hundred years, it has been the hallmark of orthodoxy.” –from the PC (USA) Book of Confessions.

The Nicene Creed is particularly important because it settled a long-running debate about how Christians could reconcile the divinity of Jesus with Jewish monotheism. The creed claims that Jesus is “of one Being with the Father.”

Offering Note:
Copy and paste the link under the Offering into your browser to easily submit your online offering.

until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Your Light Has Come”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

Manger Song

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Nicene Creed”

We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again; in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE OFFERING

www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You formed us in your image and set us in this world to love and serve you. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

(All sing together)

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system is the refrain, starting with a treble clef and a bass clef. The lyrics are 'Glo - ri - a'. The second system continues the refrain with the lyrics 'in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -'. The third system concludes the refrain with the lyrics '- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!'. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed in Jesus Christ, your Son. You sent him into this world to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering, dying an unjust death.

We rejoice that in his dying and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

We invite you to come forward for communion via the nearest accessible main aisle and return to your seat the way you came. Communion is served by intinction. Take a piece of bread held by one elder, dip it in the cup held by another, and then, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Gluten-free elements are available from the left aisle.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 853

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyahamba

Repeat 4 times.

We are marching in the light of God.

Repeat 2 times.

**We are marching, we are marching
We are marching in the light of God**

Zulu/Xhosa

(Pronounced: Si ya ham ba ku kan yen kwen kos)

Repeat 4 times.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',

Repeat 2 times.

**Siyahamba, siyahamba
Siyahamba, ekukhanyen' kwenkos'**

Hymn 853 Note:

This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men's group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Traditional

**God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

*POSTLUDE

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 5

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Take Down the Greens
11:30 a.m.

Monday, January 6

Morning Prayers
11:30 a.m.
The Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, January 7

Saturday Sacks
10:30 a.m.
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 8

Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 9

Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 10

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 12

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday
Fellowship Lunch &
Pack Blessing Bags
11:30 a.m.
Connection Team Meeting
12:30 p.m.

Monday, January 13

Morning Prayers
11:30 a.m.
The Lunch Bunch
noon

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
1/5	Hilliard Jolly	Mike Brown	Sarah McCown
1/12	TBD	TBD	TBD

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
1/5	Priscilla Brown & Michelle Lively	Rob & Michelle Lively	Jean Lowrey & Priscilla Brown
1/12	Laura Goins & Jeff Granillo	Laura Goins & Leanna Granillo	Eric Haugen & Jeff Granillo

MONTHLY

Communion (January 5)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Carol Houston	January	Sue Neelly	January	Eric & Lena Haugen
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Kathy Bridges, Laura Allgood & Kaye Clark	February	Laura Allgood	February	Mary Hubbs

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Verutzka Soza, who is recovering at home from outpatient surgery;
Jenny Crawford, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease;
Bob Hubbs, who will be receiving some long-awaited medical treatment;
Janice Sims, who was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration;
Charles Allgood, as he battles lung cancer;

Ongoing Concerns for our Members:

Nancy Rhine, in assisted living located near her daughter;
Stan Crawford, multiple health challenges including spinal stenosis;

For Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton

Patsy Burns, friend of Kathryn Sellers, who is battling Pancreatic Cancer;
Dana Easley, friend of Sherri Stafford and many in our congregation, for unspoken prayers - may
God bless her and keep her in his tender care;
The family and friends of Rita Norville, step-mother of Nancy Hallsworth, as they mourn her passing on
Saturday, December 7, 2024;
The family and friends of Rick King, brother-in-law of Jean Lowrey, as they mourn - Rick passed away
suddenly in his home on Friday evening, November 29, 2024;
For the family of Juan Manuel Cavazos, friend of Janice Sims, as they mourn his death;
Linda Leslie, friend of Sue Spivey, who is battling Pancreatic Cancer;
Patsy Townsend, friend of Janice Sims, who is at home recovering from walking Pneumonia;
Randall Dockins, Jr., friend of Janice Sims, who is at home recovering from open heart surgery;
Jerry, friend of Pam Partain, who is undergoing chemotherapy;
Becky Hansberry, daughter of Kaye Clark, who is receiving chemotherapy treatment for lung cancer at
Emory in Atlanta.
Those affected by Hurricane Helene and Milton, especially the friends, families, and loved ones who are
close to our hearts, as well as those whom we cannot name, but whose needs are known well by
God;
Paula Morrow, friend of Sarah McCown and of the church, whose Leukemia has relapsed and who is
awaiting a plan for a bone marrow transplant;
Margaret Spivey, sister-in-law of Sue Spivey and Aunt of Kathy Bridges, who is receiving radiation
treatment for breast cancer;
Mark A. Spivey, brother-in-law to Sue Spivey, who was hospitalized in Norfolk, VA following a fall
and a stroke;
Martha Bracey Henson, cousin of Mary Hubbs, who continues to receive treatment for a brain tumor;
Emily Bringardner, friend of Kathy Bridges and Sue Spivey, who has returned home and is having
physical therapy for her hip surgery. Her Parkinson problems continue;
The peace of Israel and Palestine and the well-being of Ukraine;
The families of victims of substance abuse;
Arden Brown, son of Amanda and Chris Brown, as they seek a cure for DMD;
Caregivers and aging parents.

Praises and Continuing Prayers!

Janice Sims, whose heart catheter procedure revealed no problems;
Kathy Householder, friend of Debbie and Mary Dennard, who is home from Mexico and doing well.



Contact FPC

101 S. Selvidge Street Phone: 706-278-8161

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Pastor: njiskoot@firstpresdalton.org

Hye Jeong Kwon, Director of Music: hkwon@firstpresdalton.org

Bjorn Jiskoot, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries: bjiskoot@firstpresdalton.org

Erin Witt, Office Manager: office@firstpresdalton.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722